se time during the last twenty-five years, a strike of all or a portion of their members. It would, of course, be next to impossible, within the limited space of a daily paper, to find room for all; indeed, it is subtful whether the same interest would be taken in a detailed account that a brief history of some of the most prominent would excite. Designing to present, therefore, a sketch of the most important rikes, we have endeavored to obtain the most reliable and accurate information in regard to them. The following, which we have arranged under separate heads, it will be observed, with some exceptions, took place during the periods to which we have already alluded.

THE STONECUTTERS

From the year 1823 to 1845, about five or six strikes occurred among the stonecutters of New York. In the summer of the former year, the journeymen, to the number of eighty or ninety, which omprised all employed in this city, turned out, and decided to take no less than thirteen shillings a day. This was one shilling more than the employers were willing to give for summer wages, and it resulted in a strike of four weeks duration. At the end of that period the "bosses" succumbed; and such was the and for stonecutters that before the fall the wages were increased to fifteen shillings a day. The n, determined not to return to work until thei terms were acceded to, had recourse to a singular expedient to maintain themselves during the strike On the ground at present occupied by the Astor House Mr. Astor kept a large factory for the dressing of skins and fur. It so happened that at this particular time he was in want of workmen, and was of course willing to engage any person who could perform his work. Now, this was very fortunate for the stone cutters, who preferred work ing for him at the low price of one dollar a day to returning to their legitimate occupation at less than the rates fixed by their society. They accordingly tendered their services to Mr. Astor, gave employment to all who were in need of it. This was a great change for the journeymen-from cutting stone to dressing leather; but they were content with it, and, doubtless, the difference in the occupation for the brief period of four weeks was not wholly devoid of interest. It certainly had all the charm of novelty to recommend it. Mr. Astor paid those who wanted their money every evening, and refused to discharge them even at the request of their former employers, who were not a little annoved at the singular turn which the difficulty between themselves and the journeymen had taken. Every morning the strikers met at an appointed place, and marched to work in regular military order, with bucktails in their hats. Although they succeeded in this strike, the differ

ences in relation to the value of their labor were re vived during the two following years, in which the journeymen struck two or three times. In all of these strikes they obtained their demands; but in the fall of 1826 they were not so successful. The employers triumphed on this occasion and the journeymen for once were compelled to submit to absolute necessity. In the latter part of 1835, they revived the contest by presenting the employers with a list or tariff of prices for piece work, at the same time notifying them that in the summer of 1836 they should demand two dollars a day. The prices received by those who worked by the day were considered satisfactory, and the greater part of the stonecutters were so employed; but those working at piece work were comparatively unprosected, and the bosses had undertaken to reduce the rates of wages hitherto paid them. This was resisted by the other members of the trade, who demanded that those employed on piece work should be paid as much as those working by the day, in proportion to their labor. The employers would not accede to the scale of prices proposed, and a strike was the result. This strike continued four weeks, and was terminated at last by the employers yielding to the demand of the men, and regulating their payments for piece work by the graduated scale of prices, which insured to the good workmen two dollars a day. There was one thing peculiar about this strike, and that was the unselfish generosity of its motive. The stone cutters, in this instance, did not seek for higher wages; their sole object was to redress the wrongs of their fellow craftsmen, and to make common cause with them.

In the fall of 1836 there was another strike—not

to procure an advance in their wages, for the amount demanded was no object, but to establish the principle that the men had the right to fix the value of their own labor. Among the stone-cutters, the scale of prices was settled each season by committees representing the workmen and the employers; but in 1836 the latter broke through the time honored custom, and refused to nominate re-presentatives. Thereupon the men threatened to strike, and their threats being unheeded, they turned stake, and their threats being unheeded, they turned out. This strike lasted six weeks, and proved very disastrous to the bosses, for it retarded the work in the ensuing spring, and left a great portion of it unfinished at the terrible revulsion of 1837. The men gained an addition of four cents a day to their wgaes for ten weeks, and lost six weeks work: but the principle for which they contended was triumphant. In the spring of 1845 another strike occurred—the men demanding eighteen shillings a day, and the employers offering two dollars. After standing out a month, they obtained the desired increase. In justice to both the journeymen stonecutters and their employers, we cannot close this article without mentioning the good feeling which existed between them, even after the most determined and protracted strikes. The moment the difference in relation to wages was settled, no reference was made to their past disputes, both parties acting in the spirit of the good old proverb, they "let by-gones be by-gones."

THE HATTERS. The first strike which took place among the hatter during the last quarter of a century, and which is of sufficient importance to entitle it to particular notice, commenced about the middle of December, 1834. This movement was general among all the journeymen hatters throughout the city, and lasted for a considerable time. It was occasioned by the refusal of the employers to keep such members of the trade as had joined the Trades Union in their employment. They first began by objecting to the list of prices; but this difficulty was settled by a concession on the part of the workmen, who reduced their wages to the amount demanded. They next required that such of their employes as had become memhers of the Union should resign, threatening, in the case of their refusal, to discharge them. The journeymen had their case presented to the Union by their delegates; and such was the general feel ing of sympathy elicited among the members of their trade on their behalf, that a large sum was subscribed to support them in their stand. The society, after a due consideration of the matter, adopted a series of trade on their behalf, that a large sum was subscribed to support them in their stand. The society, after a due consideration of the matter, adopted a series of resolutions, declaring the position taken by the employers to be an attempt at proscription, and a direct infringement of personal rights. The resolutions also expressed the determination of the Union to sustain the batters, and in the event of the employers persisting in their endeavers to destroy the Association of Hat Makers, to resort to such measures as would enable it "effectually to reach their interest." This movement on the part of the Trades Union served as an example to the various societies in this city and its vionity, and in Newark \$119 was raised in less than a week to sustain the hatters on strike. One firm wrote to the Union, acknowledging the right of the journeymen to regulate the price of their labor, and to adopt such means as they might consider requisite to secure the permanence of its value. The men employed in their establishment were allowed the regular wages; and in two or three weeks after several other shops followed their example, or admitted the right of the men to join the Union. Those shops that still held out were called "foul," to distinguish them from such as were considered fair and honorable in their conduct. About four or five weeks from the commencement of the strike, the employers, with two or three exceptions, withdrew their objections, and admitted the right of all members of the trade to join any society which they might consider beneficial to them. Thus ended one of the most obstinate and protracted strikes that ever occurred among the journeymen hatters of New York. There were several before and since; but they were not so general, and were confined mostly to the question of wages. About two or three years ago, however, another strike of a somewhat different character occurred in which three or four establishments were concerned. The difficulty was occasioned in this instance by the expressed determination o for their absence except sickness. As some of the hatters were members of the fire department, and others belonged to military companies, they could not comply with this demand without breaking their other chimations. They refused, were discurred, and others were employed in their places. Their

substitutes were named "foul men," and were dismissed from the fellowship and good graces of their brather workmen, who were known by the distinctive and more flattering title of "fair men." The real object of the employers in this instance was alleged to be the organization of a league among the different establishments throughout the city, for the purpose of breaking up the "Hat Finishers Trade Association," which for some reason or other had excived their enmity. The whole case came up before the society, to which the plan of the employers had been revealed by one of their own number, and a regular trial of the leader in the hostile movement was held at a meeting convened for the purpose. Witnesses were summoned, appeared, and testified in due form, on both sides. On the side of the journeymen, the employer, whose revelations had been the means of frustrating the plans of the accused party, was examined, while the accused himself presented a fair share of testimony in his own defence and justification. At the conclusion of the investigation he made an able defence, in which he was frequently interrupted by the applause of his hearers, the majority of whom, though opposed to him in principle, were not restrained by personal feeling from doing justice to his talents. His defence, however, did not save him from sentence and condemnation. He was adjudged guilty of the charge of conspiracy against the trade, and sentenced to pay a fine of one hundred dollars. This he refused to do, and his establishment was, is consequence, declared "foul." He has at present a large number of hands in his employment; but all who work for him are not recognized as "regular" by the trade in general. They are considered foul, and are not entitled to protection from the society. Regular members are prohibited by the rules from working with them, and if they make application to be received as members, they are compeled to undergo the initiatory process of whitewashing before they can be dmitted to fellowship with their brother tradesm

into the brotherhood on payment of ten dollars, while old and hardened offenders are made to pay fifty dollars before they can be permitted to pass the threshold of the society.

The strikes, as we have already stated, are mainly confined to shops, and are therefore very seldom made public. When the men are dissatisfied with their prices, they almost invariably appoint a committee to confer with their employers, and make known their demands to them. This is an admirable plan, and well calculated to maintain a friendly feeling between both parties. In nearly every case it results in a fair understanding; and after mutual representations of the condition of the employer and the employed, the matter is generally arranged in a satisfactory manner. Instances have frequently occurred where the former, unable to pay the rates demanded, have, by clearly proving their inability without serious loss to themselves, and injury to their business, induced their men to withdraw their claims. In such cases the men are never unreasonable; and when they are satisfied that the profits of the article will not allow an increase they submit with a good grace until the return of better times. When there is a "turn out" in any shop, the journeymen are required, by the laws of the association, to transmit to the President a written notice containing the names of all the journeymen on the strike. The case is presented to the consideration of the Vigilance Committee, before whom the men must appear, and give evidence in the matter. If it is clearly proved to this tribunal that they acted in accordance with law, each journeyman is furnished with a certificate by the Treasurer, which entities him to the sum of five dollars a week if married, and to three dollars if unmarried. When a hatter is on a "turn-out," or out of employment, he can only apply for work to a journeyman, as the rules of the society prohibit him from making application to the employer in person. He is also prohibited from working in a "foul" shop. Only a certain number o

The generally low rate of wages paid to all who ply the needle for a living, has produced much dis content, at various times, among the tailors particu larly. They are among the most numerous class of workmen in New York; and when there is a general strike of the trade, thousands are thrown out of em ployment. As there is no regular organization, embracing all its members, they very seldom succeed in procuring an advance of wages, for the employers in, with the assistance of those who are willing to work under the rates demanded, hold out sufficiently long to make them yield. Besides, the tailors, as a class, are perhaps poorer than the members of any other trade throughout the city, and are, therefore, unable to maintain themselves longer than one or two weeks at the utmost. The knowledge of these facts serves to aggravate the severity of the strike, and not unfrequently to rouse the bitter animosity of the tailors against the employers. This was proved, during the strike in March 836 and in a which occurred about two or three years ago, when mest unwarrantable and inexcusable acts of violence were committed upon the owners of shops that had refused to grant the terms of the tailors. The strike of March, 1836, was not attended by loss of life, nor, in fact, was any movement of the kind among the tailors productive of fatal consequences so far as we could ascertain. Several journeymen, who had, in opposition to the express command of the majority of their fellow tradesmen, worked for less than the stipulated prices, were assaulted and subjected to rather harsh treatment, and one of our present most efficient police officers got severely punished for a ruse he had performed upon them. A large crowd of tailors, it appears, had assembled in front of one of the most extensive establishments in the lower part of Broadway, and the employers in that vicinity fearing an attack, sent to the police office for assistance. Four energetic policemen were detailed for the purpose, one of whom adopted rather an ingenious method of entrapping the unconscious tailors. Taking off his coat and tying it up in his handker-chief, he elbowed his way through the crowd, and, imitating as closely as possible the bearing and appearance of a tailor, entered the store with his bundle under his arm. The crowd outside, not perceiving the trick, vented their indignation on the supposed recreant in the most unflattering terms. He was called "as seab"—an epithet of opprobrium applied to all tradesmen who underwork their associates. In the midst of all the abuse lavished upon him, the officer preserved the most imperturbable coolness. When he came out of the store he had another bundle under his arm, which the owners had given him the better to keep up the delsaion. The tailors, exasperated as they must have been, did not, however, proceed to extremities in their punishment of the officer proceed to extremities in their punishment of the officer proceed to extremities in their punishment of the officer beyond the power of endurance, was repaid with another of equal force. Two or t when mest unwarrantable and inexcusable acts of violence were committed upon the owners of shops that had refused to grant the terms

We should also state that several union shops, for the employment of the tailors "on their own hook," were established in this city; but so grasping were the members of one of these concerns that they advertised the others unorthodox, and endeavored to break them down. The organ of the trade of that day came out upon them, and exposed the injustice and felly of this conduct. None of those establishments, we understand, are now in existence.

About this time the word "master," so obnoxious to republican ears, and so subversive of republican principies, was first introduced. It was assumed by some marble cutters in Baltimore, and seems to have embittered considerably the strife between the employers and the employed.

embittered considerably the strife between the em-ployers and the employed.

The most serious riot was that of the 5th of August, 1850, when between twenty and thirty persons were wounded, and forty thrown into prison for partici-pating in the disturbance. The cause of this riot, it

was said at the time, originated in consequence of a German tailor, residing in Thirty-eighth street, having engaged with the bosses to make coats at a reduction of twenty-five cents on the regular prices. By this dishonest proceeding towards the poor iourneymen he was enabled to realize five or six dollars a day profit. Information of this matter was all die before the association of tailors, who appointed a deputation to wait on the speculator, for the purpose of making him return all the coats made for less than the fair rate of wages, and, in case of his refusal to do so, to take possession of them. Before the deputation approached the house, the object of their visit was informed of their coming in time to bolt the doors, and prevent them from entering. Failing in their purpose, they returned to the society, in Hester street, where they were joined by a large number of members. With this reinforcement they again proceeded to the obnaxious house, broke in the door, seized all the coats they could find, numbering about a hundred altogether, and conveyed them away by force. The employer was in the house when it was broken into, and before he could succeed in making be sessape from the enraged tailors he got a severe beating. He denied the charge made against him: but the tailors would not believe him. His clothes were torn into rags, but he, doubtless, considered himself fortunate in escaping with his life. Captain Freeman and a posse of police, in their endeavors to quell the disturbance by the arrest of some of the ringleaders, were fercely attacked with stones, knives and other weapons. One man was armed with a pistol, which was taken from him, however, before he could do any injury. The captain had the breast torn out of his shirt and was otherwise badly treated. Four of the rioters were arrested and taken to the station house. This did not deter the tailors, however, from further acts of violence. While the police were absent, their numbers increased to two or three hundred. They divided themselves into

A meeting was held in the Park, about a week after the riot, to sympathize with the tailors and sustain them in their strike. Resolutions were adopted, and speeches made in favor of forming an association of tailors, in which each member should be a share-helder. The movement, however, did not result in much benefit to them.

THE STEVEDORES. The stevedores, or as they are more generally

known by the appellation of "long shore men," are a class of laborers whose principal occupation con sists in the loading and unloading of vessels. Their work is very laborious and uncertain, as it depends to a great extent, upon the weather. The whole number at present in New York is between three and four thousand, and the wages of each man varies from six to ten dollars a week, according to the de mands for his labor and his capacity. Many dispute have originated between them and their employers upon the rate of wages; but, as a general thing, their demands were made only in times of urgent neces sity, when rents and provisions were high. The first important strike which occurred during the last twenty years took place on the 22d of February, 1836, and it was attended with the most serious con sequences. A large body of the stevedores, numbering several hundred, marched in procession along the docks, with the view of compelling those who were still at work to desist until the advance in their wages was granted. Great excitement prevailed among the shipping merchants, and many of those at work on vessels fled in precipitate haste when they saw the formidable body approaching. The prompt arrival of the police quelled the disturbance for the time being, by the dispersion of the rioters. The time being, by the dispersion of the rioters. The next day, however, they organized in greater numbers, and all armed with staves. They attacked those who had the hardihood to resume work after the threats of the day previous, and drove them from the vessels. Several were severely injured, and a policeman, who had rendered himself conspicuous by his vigilance and activity, had his skull fractured by a blow of a stave. His assailant was arrested, but immediately afterwards rescued and carried off in triumph. The fight did not last much longer than an hour, when the police remained masters of the an hour, when the police remained masters of the field, having arrested about a dozen of the ringlead-ers. These fruits of their victory were marched off to prison without any attempt at reseue. During the whole day business was almost wholly suspended, as very few stevedores could be induced to resume work in opposition to the consolidation. work, in opposition to the general feeling of the body. Several vessels were delayed two or three days beyond their appointed hour of sailing, and the piers were filled with boxes, casks, and every des work, in opposition to the general terms of the body. Several vessels were delayed two or three days beyond their appointed hour of sailing, and the piers were filled with boxes, casks, and every description of merchandise. The owners of some vessels, desirous of having them cleared immediately, employed the laborers at their own prices; but the great body of merchants refused to accede to their terms, in consequence of the compulsory means which had been so unwisely resorted to. Due precautions were taken by the city authorities to prevent a repetition of these riotous proceedings; the police were ready at a moment's warning to march to any part of the city where their services might be required, and a large force of artillery and militia were quartered at Tattersail's and in the Court of General Sessions, prepared to suppress any riot that might take place. No less than three thousand rounds of ball cartridge were distributed, and the Mayor had determined to place himself at their head, and when necessary to give the word to fire. These measures had a most salutary effect in deterring the stevedores from further violence. On the afternoon of the 24th, a small detachment of the stevedores marched in procession up Wall street and through Broadway, but their demeanor was peaceable. They had thrown away their staves, and the weather, the military, the police, and the merchants, appeared to be all leagued against them, and they seemed to be intent only in preserving themselves from the rain. During this riot great service was rendered by that Fouche of the New York police, "High Constable Hays." That worthy official, it is alleged, made an address to the mob, requesting them, in the blandest terms, to disperes quietly, which they did. "Taint no way, this, to raise wages," said he. "If your employers won't give you your prices, don't work—keep home and lay quiet. Make no riot here. I don't allow these things. Come, march—home with you—your wives and children want you." Now, although we are inclined to doubt the aut

On the 12th of October last the stevedores made another strike for wages, asking for an advance of twenty-five cents per day on their former pay, which would make it amount to one dollar and seventy-five cents. Four or five hundred paraded through the lower part of the city, and after marching about for a few hours, with banners flying, they assembled on the Battery, where addresses were made, encouraging them to hold out until their employers agreed to grant them the advance demanded. Inflamed by some of the speeches, and their supposed wrongs, the stevedores, after leaving the Battery, proceeded to the docks along South street, where they were joined by more of the disconstented workmen. Dividing themselves into bands of one hundred, they boarded the vessels of such merchants as were opposed to them, and compelled those at work to leave it. In one or two instances, where they refused to do so, they were pretty severely handled. The majority refused to comply with the terms of the strikers; but a considerable number granted the wages, and were enabled to continue their business without the least interruption. The animosity of the riggers appeared to be directed only against those who held out. The reasons alleged in defence of this strike were similar to those urged in justification of that which occurred years before—high rents and the increase in the price of all the necessaries of life. They were prevented from boarding one vessel by the resolute conduct of the captain, who, placing himself at the gangway, with a pistol in his hand, threatened to shoot the first man dead who should attempt to pass the bulwarks. Very little work was done the first day of the strike; but on the day following the Chief of Police, with a large force, was on discharged.
On the 12th of October last the stevedores made threatened to shoot the first man dead who should attempt to pass the bulwarks. Very little work was done the first day of the strike; but on the day following the Chief of Police, with a large force, was on he ground, ready to put down any attempt at riot.

The Mayor was also in attendance, and took an active part in preventing any serious disturbance. One or two attacks were made upon some of the stevedores to drive them from their work, but the instant interference of the police saved them from injury. Three or four of the assaliants were taken into custody, and one, who was very refractory, received a severe blow on the head from a policeman's club. The movement extended to the longshore men of Brooklyn, where similar acts of violence were perpetrated. Several workmen were injured, but none seriously. A day's calm reflection showed the laboring men the error they had committed, and the injury they had inflicted upon themselves. They now saw that their only remedy was in peaceable means, and they accordingly resolved to effect, by an appeal to the merchants' sense of right and justice, what they had falled to do by force. A meeting was held, at which a series of resolutions were adopted, stating the grievances under which the stevedores labored, asking for an advance of wages, disclaiming all intention of violent or illegal proceedings, and exhorting them to keep within the law. Meetings of the merchants and shipowners were also held, and a committee appointed to meet a committee of conference from the stevedores. This committee, in their report, stated that the stevedores had expressly disavowed their approval of or connection with the rioters, and admitted the right of every shipowner to employ whoever he pleased, and to pay his own rate of wiges. The merchants, however, still persisted in their refusal to give the advance; but, desiring to compromise the matter, they offered thirteen shillings a day, which was an addition of one shilling or half what the stevedores had fixed as their ultimatum. The meeting appointed another committee to obtain the signatures of such merchants as were willing to agree to the terms proposed. The day after this meeting the majority of the men on the strike went to work at the new rate of wages, exhibiting on their part also a wi The Mayor was also in attendance, and took an active

JOURNEYMEN CABINETMAKERS.

At a public meeting of the members of this trade held 10th March, 1835, a series of resolutions were unanimously adopted, in favor of establishing a new book of prices, and effecting a thorough organization of the trade, the better to secure a fair compensa tion for their labor. One of the resolutions ex pressed the determination of the meeting to "use all honorable means to obtain the prices contained in the new book, believing them to be founded in jus This is the first intimation we have o a strike of the cabinetmakers. A week, however elapsed before they came to an open rupture with their employers. They placed their demands before them in a respectful but determined manner. Be fore this time, it seems, there was no stipulated rate, so that when the workmen presented their claims for services rendered, frequent disagreements occurred between them and their employers in relation to the amount of compensation to which they were entitled. About twenty-five years before this a regular list of prices was adopted; but the style of work had undergone considerable change since then, and the prices required considerable alteration. When the new book of prices was compiled and printed, many of the employers objected to it, on various grounds, and a report was circulated to the effect that the journeymen were endeavoring by this means to raise the prices twenty-five or thirty per cent. This was designed, of course, to prejudice the cause of those on the strike; but its falsity was proved in time to prevent any injurious consequences to the workmen. About two weeks after the public meeting referred to, the strike terminated, and the new book was adopted by nearly all the employers as the standard by which the value of work should hereafter be settled. The strike was characterized throughout by the most commendable moderation on the part of the journeymen—none of those outrages on the peace of society disgraced their movement, but while they demanded what they considered a fair remuneration for their labor, they also respected the rights and property of their employers. To this spirit of forbearance is doubtless, in a great measure, attributable the speedy and successful termination of their strike. During the short time they were on the turn out, they received many proofs of substantial friendship from the house carpenters, ship joiners, and pianoforte makers, who assisted them in procuring work at their respective branches. This fraternal spirit was thoroughly appreciated by the cabinetmakers, who expressed their obligations through the public press for the generous assistance which had been rendered.

A strike of the cabinetmakers in March of 1850, them in a respectful but determined manner. B fore this time, it seems, there was no stipulated

THE CORDWAINERS.

In May, 1835, the cordwainers struck for highe wages, alleging that the high rents and the rise in provisions rendered the former rate of compensation inadequate to support their families. During this strike, which lasted two weeks, the cordwainers received sympathy and support from the members the other trades, and were encouraged to hold out by the example of the cordwainers in Newark, Phila delphia, New Brunswick, Orange, Poughkeepsie and other places. It was a wide-spread strike, and ended in their triumph.

A very important convention of cordwainers was held in this city, in March, 1836. It lasted three days, and was attended by delegates from New Ha ven, Newark, Philadelphia, and about twenty other cities in this State, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware. The number of tradesmen represented exceeded five thousand, some of whom received an advance of sixteen per cent, and others of eleven per cent. A constitution was adopted, in which it was provided that the convention should meet annually on the fourth Monday of September. Its awowed objects were "to secure to the journey-men cerdwainers of the United States a just compen-sation for their labor, to promote unity and concert of action for its attainment, and to devise means for men certawaners of the United States a just compensation for their labor, to promote unity and concert of action for its attainment, and to devise means for their moral, intellectual, and physical improvement." Resolutions were passed disapproving of the importation of foreign boots and shoes of all kinds, as destructive to the interests of the journeymen engaged in the manufacture of these indispensable articles, in consequence of the reduced prices at which they were sold. It was recommended that the tradesmen connected with this convention should refuse employment from those employers who were engaged in importing or vending such articles. The convention expressed its decided condemnation of the system which had been adopted in the State prisons, of employing convict labor, thereby bringing it into competition with their honest industry. The majority of the cordwainers succeeded in obtaining an advance in their wages; but the convention was broken up in the general disaster which befel the working classes in the great financial revulsion of 1837.

The cordwainers also joined in the general uprising of the trades in 1850, and in May of that year struck for higher wages. They formed in procession at the Fourteenth Ward Hotel, and, with banners flying, marched through those streets where the boot and shoe stores were most numerous. About a fortnight after this demonstration a list of prices was adopted by the trade, and a committee of four appointed to notify the employers of their action. At a subsequent meeting this committee reported that they had acted according to instructions and that the majority of the bosses expressed their willingness to gran a reasonable advance. As there was some difference in relation to the list which had been adopted, it was modified so as te suit the wishes of all the members. The prices were paid by the employers, with a few exceptions.

Several strikes have taken place among the coabreakers, during the last twenty years; but the only one deserving of particular notice occurred on th 7th of March, 1836. About twenty of those who were thrown out of employment by refusing to work for less than the tariff of prices fixed by a portion of their fellow workmen, marched, with the most hos tile demonstrations, to one of the coal yards in Washington street, where some coal breakers were working for less than the specified amount. They were in the act of inflicting summary punishmen upon the offenders, when one of the proprietors of the establishment made his appearance, armed with the establishment made his appearance, armed with a pair of loaded pistols, and threatened to shoot the first man who attempted violence upon those working for him. This dampened their courage considerably, and they left very reluctantly, avowing their determination to call again. True to their word, they did come, and this time there were no less than eighty; but the coolness and determination of the owner saved his place from violence. He exhibited his pistols, and they proved more persuasive than the most logical arguments he could employ. Failing in their purpose here, they next proceeded to another yard, the owner of which had lost all favor in their sight by his non-compliance with their demands. They forced the mon

in this and another establishment to leave their work, and march with them to the scene of their former defeat. Here, however, they met with no better success. News of their previous visits had been sent to the police authorities, and a posse of officers, under the command of Justice Bloodgood, was prepared to receive them. As the appearance of the police was entirely unexpected, they withdrew as speedily as possible, directing their march to other yards in the neighborhood. Wherever they went, the police, however, followed, and prevented them from doing any mischief. Some of them became quite exasperated at being dodged in this manner by the officers, and, unable to restrain their indignation and resentment, turned round and attacked them; but the fight was of short duration, and was terminated—as all such fights generally do—in the discomiture of the assailants, and in the triumph of the police. Eight of the unfortunate men were immediately arrested, and committed to prison. Thus ended this ill-fated strike; and we are told that the advance which they had asked was granted only by a few employers. in this and another establishment to leave their work ployers.

THE HANDLOOM WEAVERS.

A pretty general movement took place among the weavers of this city in February, 1836, and several meetings were held to effect a change in the price of their labor. This, it may be remarked, was the principal cause of the formation of the Trades Union. There were many secondary causes, such as regulation of the hours of labor, which led to some of the most important strikes which occurred among the trades. At one of the meetings of the weavers, a series of resolutions were adopted, setting forth the grievances under which they labored. It was stated that their wages were insufficient to procure the means of a comfortable subsistence, and far below that which is generally obtained by other mechanics. A convention of the several bodies of associated handloom weavers in the United States was called for the 8th of March, of the same year, to meet at Philadelphia, in order to investigate the evils affecting the trade, and "to ascertain whether they resulted from foreign or home competition, or from the product of the power loom, and to devise a remedy for them." We have not been able to ascertain whether this trade convention ever took place; but from the silence of the papers of that date on the subject, we should think it did not. regulation of the hours of labor, which led to some

THE SAIL MAKERS.

A portion of the sail makers struck in October, 1835, against the extension of the hours of labor. A public meeting was held, at which measures were taken to defeat the purpose of the employers. Resolutions, expressing the highest indignation at the injustice, were adopted, and the right of the employers to change, the time was wholly denied. his in ers to change, the time was wholly denied. his infringement on their rights, it was alleged by the journeymen, was attempted by men who had a very limited practical knowledge of the trade, and who, to use their own words, could not do a day's work in twenty hours Some of the regular employers, who had hitherto stood in good repute with the men, joined in this movement against them. The originators of the proposed change were denominated by the opprobrious, but rather far-fetched cognomen, of "Modern Esaus." The determined stand taken by the men, however, prevented the employers from insisting upon the alteration in the hours of labor, and amicable relations were again established between them.

STRIKE OF THE PLANOFORTE MAKERS. In November, 1835, a strike occurred among thes operatives, in consequence of one manufacturer re taining in his employment, as superintendent, a person who had rendered himself obnoxious to the rest of the men by working under wages. Finding that all their efforts to procure his dismissal were unavailing, they proceeded to inflict punishment on the recreant by tarring and feathering him. This act of cruelty was committed upon a man guiltless of the crime-a mechanic of their own body, whom, in the dusk of the evening, they mistook for the obnoxious individual. The outrage was charged at the time to the account of the Trades Union, by persons opposed to those societies, although the pianoforte makers had no connection with them. This, however, did not prevent the pianoforte makers from sympathising with their struggling brethren of the Trades Union, for, in March. 1836, we find them giving aid and support to the tailors, who were at that time on a strike, and pledging themselves to patronize the clothing emporium established by them. One of their resclutions reads as follows:—"That as labor is the only merchandise which the journeymen have in the market, they have a right to set a price on it; and those who will not enjoy the privilege are slaves, and that we recommend them and their masters to the attention of the abolitionists." dusk of the evening, they mistook for the obnoxious

THE OPERATIVE MASONS

A union of the members of this trade was formed in May, 1850, for the purpose of remedying the evil system of subcontracting, and the odious practices "carried on in the erection of buildings throughout the city. The custom of giving out the building of cellars, basements, &c., to men who did not belong to the business, and who were not practical mechanics, had become quite prevalent, and was productive of much injury to the masons. It was urged
that such men were not qualified to carry out the responsibilities which devolved upon them. The stand
taken by the masons on this occasion was partially
successful.

THE CARPENTERS.

A grand procession of journeymen carpenters, num-bering between three and four thousand, and accompanied by bands of music, took place on the 13th of March, 1850. They were on a strike, and this imposing demonstration had, no doubt, considerable influence in making a large number of the bosses "agree to the proposed increase of wages." At a meeting which was held two or three days after, it was announced that of the whole number of tradesmen only fourteen were still on a strike; but many of the em-ployers subsequently refused to fulfil their agreement with their workmen. In consequence of this, and the general apathy among the majority, many were compelled to work for less than fourteen shillings a day, the amount stipulated by the trade.

THE HOUSESMITHS.

These tradesmen struck for an advance of twelve and a half per cent., in March, 1850. At one of the meetings it was proposed that the whole of the trade should stand out while a single employer refused to pay the Increase demanded, but it was finally determined that each shop should stand out for its own men. A majority of the employers acceded to their terms. The Housesmiths, as did many other trades, passed a vote of thanks to the editor of the Healand of the thinks of the manner in which he noticed their proceedings. proceedings ..

THE UPHOLSTERERS.

The strike of the upholsterers, in March, 1850, was perhaps, more successful than that of any other body of tradesmen. Only one shop held out against them, and that at length yielded. The workmen employed in it were assisted by their fellow tradesmen, while they were on the turn-out.

WATCHCASE MAKERS.

This body of tradesmen experienced little difficulty in their strike of April, 1850, all the employers except two having agreed to pay them their terms. The advance demanded was about thirty per cent.

THE COACHPAINTERS. A partial strike of the members of this trade was

made in April, 1850; but it was of very brief duration, as those out of employment were engaged almost immediately by bosses in need of hands, THE SHIPSAWYERS.

In April, 1850, a pretty general movement took place among the shipsawyers, for the purpose of ob

taining an increase of wages. A permanent organization, embracing the tradesmen of Brooklyn also, was established. The shipsawyers, we believe, were successful in procuring the desired advance. BRICKLAYERS AND PLASTERERS. These hard-working tradesmen formed themselve

into a protective association in May, 1850, and shortly after demanded an advance in the wages shortly after demanded an advance in the wages they were then receiving. The establishment of the society resulted very beneficially to the trade in general, and had a good effect in preventing many who had not served a regular apprenticeship from competing with those who had. A strike was made at some subsequent period, by a portion of the bricklayers, which, we believe, was successful.

A large and well conducted meeting of this numer ous body of men, was held in May, of 1850, to consider the propriety of demanding an advance of wages, and during the summer, a considerable number who failed in procuring it struck. They were eventually successful, however.

THE PRINTERS.

The members of "the art preservative of all arts' struck for an advance in May, 1850, having previously adopted a list of prices. Some of the newspa-pers refused to accede to their terms, while others granted them immediately.

THE GREAT FLOUR RIOT OF 1837. Rents, provisions, fuel, flour, money, work, are now absorbing the attention of all classes. In the very housest of Heaven men forget hereafter, in dwelling upon the deeply important matters of the present moment.

On the subject of rents, there appears to be a general combination of all the speculators, capitalists and land owners, against the poor, the needy, the laborer, and the workingman. Even the corporation, that areas of speculation, is leagued with speculators, against tenants. They are opening streets in all directions. This only serves to increase the value of houses, and drive tenants from the city.

The foregoing extracts are taken from the Numerical servers and the Numerical servers and the Numerical servers and the numerical servers are taken from the Numerical servers.

The foregoing extracts are taken from the New YORK HERALD of February 7, 1827, and may be regarded as a graphic and life like sketch of the condition of our city during that disastrous year. There is much in it that would apply with equal force to New York in 1853, and men are now prophesying like results. Heaven forbid, however, that we should ever be compelled to pass through such another ordeal, or that speculators, heartless as some of theme are, should be induced by the necessities of the times to engage in the same system of extortion which distinguished the year to which we refer as an era ha the history of the good old Knickerbocker city.

At the time to which we allude, the exciting and all-absorbing topics were the high rents and exorbitant prices of provisions. They formed the principal subjects of discussion, and apprehensions were entertained by the wise and far-seeing that the peace of the city would be endangered if an immediate remedy could not be provided. On Friday, the 10th of February, a notice was published in our paper, to the effect that preparations were making "for a great meeting of the people in the Park, to take into consideration the present state of things." The people were roused, for they had good reason to believe that the landlords were leagued to increase their rents, and that the speculators had taken advantage of a deficiency in the wheat crop of the previous harvest, to buy up all the flour throughout the country. This speculation was not confined to our own State, but extended to Maine, Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania, where public meetings had been held to protest against the outrage. The necessity, therefore, of similar action in New York, was becoming more apparent every day; but, as it was desirable that the meeting should be composed of all classes of citizens, laborers, mechanics, and merchants, were all invited, without exception, it was hoped that an assemblage of this character would be productive of good effects, and that some plan of action might be adopted that would remove the grievances of which the great body of the people had such just causes of complaint. In an editorial article, published on the morning of the day for which the meeting had been called, the HeraLin gave the following judicious advice, which, if followed, would have prevented the disgraceful riot that ensued:— At the time to which we allude, the exciting and all-absorbing topics were the high rents and exor-

lowed, would have prevented the disgraceful riot that ensued:—

We trust, therefore, that this meeting may be conducted with order, decorum and intelligence throughout. Let reason, knowledge and common sense be the guide. Its magnitude and importance never have been surpassed. It is a question of life against death—of hunger and cold against a varice and usury—of common sense against party politicis—of protection against the artsoft the speculator, politician and extortioner. Let every measure and every movement be conducted within the limits of existing law. If our precent laws are corrupt, bad, injurious, they can only be amended in a legal way. Let there be no riot, no mob, no breaking of the peace.

It was doubtless a matter of subsequent regret.

isting law. If our present laws are corrupt, bad, injurieus, they can only be amended in a legal way. Lat there he no riot, no mob, no breaking of the peace.

It was doubtless a matter of subsequent regret that this wise counsel was not followed, and that the wild violence to which the city appeared to have abandoned itself, was not restrained by a regard for the rights of personal property, or a reckless and prodigal waste of one of the great necessaries of life. The meeting was organized in the Park, immediately in front of the City Hall, at four o'clock. The day was the most inclement of the season, the wind was piercing cold, and had the subject been one only of ordinary interest, very few would have attended. But the subject was of general and vital importance; one of the largest crowds ever gathered within the limits of the Park was assembled on that momentous occasion. There were about twenty-five thousand persons present, among whom were a large representation from all classes and conditions of life, from the poor tradesman who builds the lordly manson, to the rich merchant who inhabits it. Resolutions and speeches, expressive of the determination of the meeting, in relation to the existing monopolies, were presented and made, and there appeared to be but one feeling in regard to the speculators—that of general condemnation. But a large number, not content with the peaceable and orderly mode of proceeding which had been adopted, and unable to restrain their excitement, formed in a body, went down to Washington street, near the market, and commenced a desperate assault out the extensive store of Eil Hart & Co., who had rendered themselves particularly obnoxious by their speculation in flour, and the high price which they demanded for it. Five thousand infariate I men broke into the building, smashed the windows, overturned everything within their reach, and, seizing about a hundred barrels, smashed in the heads, and entired the flour into the streets. A large amount was estroyed by being trampled under f flour. The interposition of the police was called for; but the crowd was too great, and the popular feeling too deeply enlisted and aroused, to admit of anything effective being done to quell the riot. The Mayor was present, and did all in the power of mart to allay the excitement and prevent the people from executing their vengeance in a still more summary manner. It was not an ordinary mob, composed of the lowest and most degraded of the population, but was formed of respectable mechanics, industrious hard-working laborers, and men from various professions and occupations in life. Such men were not to be put down immediately, when once aroused; and it must be admitted that there were many palliating circumstances which might be urged for what they did, however much we may condemn any movement which violates the peace and well-being of society, or which has a tendency to destroy our confidence in the integrity and administration of our laws. The battle-cry of the masses on this occasion was "Bread, bread," and "No monopoly;" and wherever it was heard it struck terror to the hearts of the speculators. The police, unable to contend against the enraged populace, called on several citizens to assist them in maintaining the supremacy of the laws; but they were prevented from doing so by a feeling of sympathy with the rioters, or from a lear that they might be roughly handled for their interference.

An agent of the firm who owned the store endeavored to stay them by offering to sell the flour at eight dollars a barrel, four dollars less than had been previously demanded for it. It had no effect, however, for nothing but the destruction of the property would appear to satisfy them. "It is too late," they replied, as they flung barrel after barrel into the street. The same words, re-echoed in the French capital, in February of 1848, sealed the doom of Louis Philippe, destroyed the succession in his family, and, if we follow it out to its consequence, placed the prisoner of Ham and "the nephew of his uncle" upon the i enlisted and aroused, to admit of a

deavoring to prevent some plunderers from carrying off a wagon load of flour, and were beaten back, when they were assisted by a tall, powerful fellow in a a carman's frock. Addressing the crowd, that pressed on all sides, threatening to overwhelm the officers, he called upon them to respect property. "No plunder, my lads," said he; "no plunder—destroy, destroy, as much as you please. Teach these monopolists that we know our rights, and will have them; but, d—n it, don't rob them." When the crowd had wreaked their vengeance upon the flour store, they gradually dispersed, and the scene of destruction was left entirely in the occupation of a large number of special constables, who were put our guard there to prevent the recurrence of a similar outrage. By eight o'clock that evening all was quiet, and only the remains of the scattered flour, mingled with the dirt of the streets, and the ruined building, gave evidence of the violence that had been committed. Special guards were detailed from the police to protect some establishments in Broad street; but there was, fortunately, very little occasion for their services, as the people were satisfied with what they had already done. The military were also called into requisition, and, having paraded through the streets, returned to their quarters without firing a shot.

The damage done in other parts of the city was

ed into requisition, and, having paraded through the streets, returned to their quarters without firing a shot.

The damage done in other parts of the city was camparatively trifling in extent. In Broad street some demonstrations were made upon Meach's flow store; but here the rioters were content with smashing one or two panes of glass, knocking the heads out of a few barrels of flour, and scattering their contents in the street. Herrick's store, at Coenties slip, was also attacked, broken into, and some of the flour destroyed in the same manner. During the riot about thirty persons were arrested, and such were the apprehensions of the police authorities, that in every case they refused bail, no matter how unexceptionable. They were all committed to durance vile until their cases could be investigated. To such friends as applied for their discharge, on procuring bail, the only answer was—"No bail can be taken; we have not yet decided what to do." Some of the rioters were arrested for assaulting the police, some on a charge of breaking into the flour stores, and others on a charge of appropriating the flour to their own use. After a trial, in the course of which it appeared that more than one half of the prisoners were innocent of the charges preferred against them, one was sentenced to six months imprisement and another to four months in the Cay